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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,210	06/25/2004	Timothy J. Dalton	FIS920040128US1	4209
32074	7590	02/11/2005	EXAMINER	
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION				DANG, PHUC T
DEPT. 18G				ART UNIT
BLDG. 300-482				PAPER NUMBER
2070 ROUTE 52				2818
HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY 12533				DATE MAILED: 02/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/710,210	DALTON ET AL.
	Examiner PHUC T. DANG	Art Unit 2818

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Group I, Claims 1-18, drawn to a method of forming substantially cylindrical conductors, classified in class 438, subclass 617.
- II. Group II, Claims 19-20, drawn to a conductive interconnect structure for preventing cracks in a dielectric layer on a substrate, classified in class 257, subclass 758.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

1. Inventions I and II are related as method of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case unpatentability of the Group II invention would not necessarily imply unpatentability of the Group I invention, since the device of Group II invention could be made by a product different from those of the Group I invention. For example, rather than using an etching step as required by the Group I invention, the intermetal dielectric layer could be formed by patterning step. However, the issues of method and product claims are divergent. Furthermore, there may be some overlap in the searches of the two groups, but there is no reason to believe that the searches would be identical. Therefore, based on the additional work involved in searching and examination of the two inventions together, restriction of distinct inventions is clearly proper.
2. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined eventhough the requirement be traverse (37 CFR 1.143).
3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h).
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Phuc T. Dang whose telephone number (571) 272-1776. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Phuc T. Dang

PP

Dang Phuc

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2818